Achievement in the rural areas

1095. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by Government in the rural areas in the last three years; and

(b) the details of the scheme of Government which had benefited the most in the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The achievement of major schemes namely Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the National Food for Work Programme (NFWWP), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Rural Water Supply Programme (RWSP), during the last three years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the scheme	Financial and physical achievement			Physical achievement	Unit
	Allocation	Release	Exp.		
SGRY	16218.00	16118.17	21544.15	17627.24	Emp. Generated in lakh mandays.
SGSY	2367.90	2049.87	3240.19	2807807	Swarojgaris assisted (nos.)
NFFWP	2019.00	2019.45	550.99	793.51	Emp. Generated in Lakh mandays
IAY	6979.43	8636.12	5320.05	5402404	No. of dwelling units
PMGSY	6904.62	6900.52	7560.43	12877	No. of roads
RWS	5389.43	5584.39	4889.64	163423	Total Habitants covered.

Capability and technology infusion in man-made fibre sector

1096. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India needs to further enhance the capability and infuse technology in man-made fibre sector keeping in view the increased consumption of man-made fibre in the world market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India even though a major producer of cotton yarn and fabric, the productivity of cotton as measured by yield, has been found to be lower than many countries.

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost textile sector in the context of (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The consumption of man-made fibres in India is estimated at 2166.94 million kg. in 2004-05, whereas the production of such fibres is 2124.00 million kg. and the installed capacity in the country is 2518.67 million kg. India produced 1793 million kg. of cotton fabrics in 2003-04, which accounts for 14.38% of world production and India is the second largest producer of such fabrics in the world. However, due to increase in domestic and world demand for Indian man-made fibres, fabric as well as cotton yarn and fabrics, there is need for increasing the production capability of man-made fibres as well as cotton fabrics/yarn in the country.

The productivity of cotton (2004-05) in India is approximately 440 kgs. per hectare, which is much lower than the productivity of cotton in many other cotton producing countries like China, Pakistan and USA, which have productivity levels at 1119, 773 and 958 kgs. per hectare respectively during 2004-05.

(d) The Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time for accelerated growth of textile sector as given in the Statement enclosed *(See* below*)*.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government for development of the textile sector

(i) Cotton development and research programmes like Integrated Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) have been launched.

(ii) Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT) cotton has been released commercially w.e.f. 2002-03 cotton season by Government of India to fight pest resistance being faced by cotton farmers in major qualities of the crop.

(iii) Promoting integrated cotton cultivation (contract farming) involving availability of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers etc. to the farmers for obtaining desired quality of cotton.

(iv) Setting up of a Cotton Technology Mission in February, 2000 with an outlay of Rs. 593 crores to improve the quality of cotton fibre at reasonable cost with a view also to export cotton at competitive prices in comparison to other exporting countries.

(v) Launching of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to facilitate modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.

(vi) The import of a large number of capital goods of man-made fibres/ yarns industry has been allowed under concessional customs duty of 5%. Besides the cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an excise exemption option.

(vii) 100% foreign direct investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(viii) The Government has dereserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(ix) An Apparel Park for Export Scheme has been launched to impart a focused thrust for setting up of apparels manufacturing units of international standards of potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. Under the Scheme Government gives grants upto Rs. 17 crores per apparel park for infrastructure work, training and common facilities.

(x) Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) (Centrally sponsored) has been introduced with the objective of modernizing infrastructure facilities at major traditional textile centres of the country. Government of India gives grant upto Rs. 20 crores for a particular centre.

(xi) In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced

(xii) To facilitate import of state-of-the-art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 items of machinery appearing in List 49 which attract Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

(xiii) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(xiv) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide a leadership role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

Protection of Indian textile industry under SAFTA

1097. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many textile items are there in the negative list where tariff concessions can not be extended under the proposed SAFTA for SAARC countries;

(b) what kind of protection would be granted to Indian domestic textile industry under the proposed SAFTA;

(c) whether the Bangladesh garment industry would not be granted preferential status for the Indian market; and

(d) the details of specific clauses that are being incorporated into SAFTA for the protection of the Indian textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) There are 429 textiles tariff lines in the preliminary indicative Negative List of India. The Negative Lists of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) member countries have not yet been finalized by the Committee of Experts on SAFTA. Under the SAFTA Agreement, Bangladesh would get the benefits that are available to other contracting members on MFN basis, and besides get other such concessions that are extended to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) contracting members.